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Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Elimination of all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] as well as in other relevant international instruments, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of violence against women,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[3] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[4] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[5] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[6] as well as the follow-up action by the Commission on the Status of Women on violence against women and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[7]

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[4] See resolution 48/104.
[5] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[7] Resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

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Recalling also all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, including resolutions 57/176 of 18 December 2002 on the trafficking in women and girls, 57/179 of 18 December 2002 on working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, 57/181 of 18 December 2002 on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and 56/128 of 19 December 2001 on the traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/45 of 23 April 2003 on the elimination of violence against women, as well as all its previous resolutions on this issue,[8]

Bearing in mind that violence against women is a human rights issue,

Recognizing that violence against women is a societal problem based on unequal power relations between women and men,

Recognizing also that both men and women have and should take responsibility for promoting gender equality,

Recognizing further the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as psychological, social and economic development, arising from violence against women, that affect individuals, families, communities and States,

Emphasizing that violence against women and girls, including rape, female genital mutilation, incest, early and forced marriage, and violence related to commercial sexual exploitation, including trafficking, as well as economic exploitation and other forms of sexual violence, can increase their vulnerability to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and aggravate the conditions fostering the spread of HIV/AIDS,

Underlining the importance of the empowerment of women and their effective participation in decision-making and policy-making processes as critical tools to prevent and eliminate violence against women,

1. *Affirms* that the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

2. *Welcomes*:

(a) The activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of all forms of violence against women, including legal, educational, economic, social and other measures;

(b) The work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and takes note of her report documenting developments in the area of violence against women, 1994-2002;[9]

[8] See E/2003/23 (Part I), chap. II, sect. A.

[9] E/CN.4/2003/75 and Corr.1 and Add.1-4 and Add.2/Corr.1.

(c) The efforts undertaken by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, to address the issue of violence against women, and encourages them to coordinate their efforts, and, in particular, expresses its appreciation for the initiatives of the United Nations Development Fund for Women to combat violence against women at the international, regional and national levels, as well as the World Report on Violence and Health[10] launched by the World Health Organization in 2002, particularly its consideration of gender-based violence;

(d) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations and community-based organizations, and individuals, aimed at the elimination of violence against women, inter alia, by raising awareness of all forms of violence against women and their harmful effects and in the provision of support services to women victims of violence;

3. *Stresses* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and investigate all forms of violence against women and to punish the perpetrators thereof and to provide protection to the victims, and also stresses that not to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Also stresses* that all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[7] are obstacles to the advancement and empowerment of women;

5. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against women and girls and, in this regard, calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

6. *Stresses* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination;

7. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To combat all forms of violence against women through the adoption of a holistic and multidisciplinary approach and to undertake immediate and concrete steps to mainstream a gender perspective into their efforts;

(b) To take all measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence, inter alia, through equal remuneration for equal work, and increased job opportunities, as well as through equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, credit, microcredit, and traditional saving schemes, such as women's banks and cooperatives, and by ensuring property rights and the right to inheritance with a view to reducing women's vulnerability to all forms of violence, including domestic violence and trafficking;

(c) To take all necessary measures, including legislative, policy and programmatic measures, to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights of women in order to allow women and girls to better protect themselves against violence in both the public and private spheres;

[10] Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

(d) To take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, the access to just and effective remedies including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

(e) Not to invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligation to eliminate violence against women;

(f) To prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including their gender-based manifestations, and to take effective measures to provide redress to victims;

I
Domestic violence

1. *Recognizes*:

(a) That domestic violence is violence that occurs within the private sphere, generally between individuals who are related through intimacy, blood or law;

(b) That domestic violence is one of the most common, and least visible, forms of violence against women and that its consequences affect many areas of the lives of victims;

(c) That domestic violence can take many different forms including physical, psychological and sexual violence;

(d) That domestic violence is of public concern and requires States to take serious action to protect victims and prevent domestic violence;

(e) That domestic violence can include economic abuse which may cause harm to the safety, health or well-being of women;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment of States to establish legislation and/or strengthen appropriate mechanisms to handle criminal matters relating to all forms of domestic violence, including marital rape and sexual abuse of women and girls, and ensure that such cases are brought to justice swiftly;

3. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To adopt, strengthen and implement legislation that prohibits domestic violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against domestic violence and to periodically review, evaluate and revise these laws and regulations so as to ensure their effectiveness in eliminating domestic violence;

(b) To make marital rape a criminal offence and to prosecute the perpetrators;

(c) To adopt and/or strengthen policies and legislation in order to strengthen preventive measures, protect the human rights of victims, ensure proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, and provide legal and social assistance to victims of domestic violence, as well as adopt policies with regard to the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

(d) To intensify measures aimed at preventing domestic violence against women;

(e) To ensure greater protection for women, inter alia, by means of, where appropriate, orders restraining violent partners from entering the family home, or the

banning of violent partners from contacting the victim, without prejudice to any reconciliation measure;

(f) To provide or facilitate the provision of adequate training, inter alia, gender-awareness training, to all professionals who deal with victims of domestic violence, including police officers, judicial and legal personnel, health personnel, educators, youth workers and social workers;

(g) To provide or facilitate the provision of assistance to victims of domestic violence in lodging police reports and receiving treatment and support, which may include the setting up of one-stop centres, as well as the establishment of safe shelters and centres for victims of domestic violence;

(h) To protect women from further victimization in the process of seeking redress;

(i) To establish and/or strengthen police response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of domestic violence and to prevent further acts of domestic violence;

II

Female genital mutilation

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Also welcomes* initiatives taken by Governments to hold national or regional symposiums or seminars on female genital mutilation, with the aim of disseminating information on the harmful effects of this practice in order to achieve total elimination;

3. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To develop, adopt and implement legislation, policies, plans and programmes that prohibit female genital mutilation, and to prosecute the perpetrators of such practice;

(b) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of and to mobilize international and national public opinion concerning the harmful effects of female genital mutilation, inter alia, by holding national or regional symposiums or seminars followed up by actions, and by involving public opinion leaders, educators, families, religious leaders, chiefs, traditional leaders, medical and traditional practitioners, teachers, women's health and family planning organizations, social workers, childcare agencies, relevant non-governmental organizations, the arts and the media in awareness-raising campaigns, in order to achieve the total elimination of those practices;

(c) To explore, through consultations with communities and religious and cultural groups, their leaders and traditional practitioners, non-harmful alternatives to female genital mutilation, in particular where those practices form part of a ritual ceremony or rite of passage;

(d) To establish or strengthen support services to respond to the needs of victims by, inter alia, developing comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services;

[11] A/58/169.

(e) To address specifically in the training of health and other relevant personnel traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, and the increased vulnerability of women and girls to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other sexually transmitted infections due to such practices;

(f) To continue to take specific measures to increase the capacity of communities, including immigrant and refugee communities, in which female genital mutilation is practised, to engage in activities aimed at preventing and eliminating such practices;

(g) To support health and education programmes for women and girls and to ensure that women and girls have access to information, including education and information about the harmful effects and risks to health posed by female genital mutilation, the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, safe motherhood, and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, which includes female genital mutilation;

(h) To promote men's understanding, inter alia, through information campaigns, of their roles and responsibilities with regard to promoting the elimination of female genital mutilation;

III
Crimes committed in the name of honour

1. *Expresses its concern* that women continue to be victims of crimes committed in the name of honour, and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of such violence, which takes many different forms, and at the failures to prosecute and punish perpetrators;

2. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To continue to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, by using legislative, administrative and programmatic measures;

(b) To investigate promptly and thoroughly, prosecute effectively and document cases of crimes against women committed in the name of honour and to punish the perpetrators;

(c) To take all necessary measures to ensure that such crimes are not tolerated;

(d) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to be committed by involving, inter alia, community leaders;

(e) To encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the provision of training for those responsible for enforcing the law, such as police personnel and judicial and legal personnel, and to strengthen their capacity to respond to complaints of such crimes in an impartial and effective manner and take necessary measures to ensure the protection of actual and potential victims;

(f) To continue to support the work of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing this issue and to strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(g) To establish, strengthen or facilitate, where possible, support services to respond to the needs of actual and potential victims by, inter alia, providing for them the appropriate protection, safe shelter, counselling, legal aid, health-care services, rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

(h) To address effectively complaints of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, inter alia, by creating, strengthening or facilitating institutional mechanisms so that victims and others can report such crimes in a safe and confidential environment;

IV
Racially motivated violence

1. *Stresses* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls, and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and the limitation or denial of their human rights, and recognizes the need to integrate a gender perspective into relevant policies, strategies and programmes of action, including effective implementation of national legislation, against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to address multiple forms of discrimination against women;

2. *Takes note* of general recommendation XXV of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination;[12]

3. *Expresses its concern*:

(a) That certain forms of racial discrimination may be directed towards women specifically because of their gender;

(b) At the gender-related impediments, such as gender bias in the legal system and discrimination against women in private spheres of life, that may hinder women in accessing remedies and complaint mechanisms for racial discrimination;

4. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To take all necessary measures to address, specifically through policies and programmes, racism and racially motivated violence against women and girls;

(b) To increase and intensify cooperation, policy responses and effective implementation in respect of national legislation and of their obligations under relevant international instruments, and other protective and preventive measures aimed at the elimination of all forms of racially motivated violence against women and girls;

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 18* and addendum (A/55/18 and Add.1), annex V, sect. A.

(c) That are parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[13] to describe, as far as possible in quantitative and qualitative terms, factors affecting and difficulties experienced in ensuring the equal enjoyment by women, free from racial discrimination, of rights under the Convention;

5. *Invites* the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, when examining the forms of racial discrimination, to continue to enhance its efforts to integrate gender perspectives, incorporate gender analysis, and encourage the use of gender-inclusive language in its working methods, including its review of reports submitted by States parties, concluding observations, early warning mechanisms and urgent action procedures, and general recommendations;

V

Early and forced marriages

1. *Reaffirms* that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses;

2. *Expresses its concern*:

(a) At the practice of early and forced marriages which impair the enjoyment by women and children of their human rights;

(b) That early marriage and early pregnancy can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their and their children's economic welfare and development affecting their quality of life;

(c) That early marriage and early pregnancy are significant factors contributing to health-related problems, including sexual and reproductive health;

3. *Welcomes* the valuable work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in combating early and forced marriages, and takes note in this regard of its general recommendation 21 on equality in marriage and family relations;[14]

4. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To abide by their commitment made at the special session of the General Assembly on children to end the practice of early and forced marriage;

(b) To take legislative action, if they have not done so, to specify a minimum age for marriage;

(c) To consider signing and ratifying the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages;[15]

(d) To improve access to information on the negative impact of early marriage and early childbearing;

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[13] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/49/38), chap. I, sect. A.

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 521, No. 7525.

(e) To mobilize the media and to support civil society with respect to raising public awareness on the consequences of child marriages and early pregnancy and the need to combat them;

(f) To improve education for young women as a means to empower them and as a contribution to preventing early marriages and early pregnancy;

VI
Female infanticide

1. *Condemns* the practice of female infanticide;

2. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure the protection of the inherent right to life of all children under their jurisdiction, by providing a safe and healthy start in life, by providing access to effective, equitable, sustained and sustainable primary health care systems, and by eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education;

3. *Stresses* the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which result in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and prenatal sex selection;

4. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that son preference and low value associated with daughters may lead to the neglect of girls through systematic differential access to food and medical care;

5. *Recognizes* the fact that female infanticide reflects a strong economic, cultural and traditional bias that exists in favour of male children and the low status accorded to women in many societies around the world;

6. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To enact and enforce legislation against prenatal nonmedically necessary sex selection;

(b) To formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate female infanticide and to address, inter alia, the root causes of female infanticide, including the elimination of discriminatory legislation and practices;

(c) To prosecute or facilitate the prosecution of cases of female infanticide and punish those responsible;

(d) To take awareness-raising measures and enact relevant social and economical policies that protect the rights of women and girls in order to promote changing the attitude of son preference;

VII
Sexual abuse of female children

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;

2. *Recognizes* that girls are far more likely to be victims of sexual abuse than boys;

3. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To take specific legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from sexual abuse;

(b) To take steps to improve the enforcement of legislation aimed at preventing child sexual abuse and punishing the perpetrators;

(c) To provide or facilitate the provision of support services for children and families in cases where incest or sexual abuse has occurred;

(d) To provide or facilitate the provision of child-sensitive facilities such as telephone helplines and shelters, where appropriate, in conjunction with civil society;

(e) To adopt judicial and administrative procedures to prevent sexual abuse of children and to provide effective remedies;

(f) To develop educational programmes to prevent and stop sexual abuse;

(g) To provide training for professionals who work with children, as well as doctors and health-care professionals, in detecting abuse and any signs that may lead to a suspicion of sexual violence and reporting such suspicion to the appropriate authorities;

VIII
Dowry related violence

1. *Condemns* all forms of dowry-related violence, including homicide;

2. *Recognizes* that dowry-related violence takes many different forms, including, murder, rape, battery and other forms of physical abuse as well as psychological abuse;

3. *Welcomes*:

(a) The efforts of States to eliminate dowry-related violence;

(b) The contribution of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to eliminating dowry-related violence;

(c) Legislation that has made the custom of dowry an offence punishable by imprisonment and urges States that have not yet done so to take legislative steps to criminalize the custom of dowry;

4. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To continue to undertake, and, if applicable, improve, implementation of existing legislation prohibiting such practices as dowry, inter alia, through the strengthening of law enforcement;

(b) To provide medical, legal and judicial assistance to victims of dowry-related violence as well as to provide or facilitate the provision of shelter, training and rehabilitation services to victims;

5. *Recognizes* that legislative measures are not sufficient to eliminate dowry-related violence and calls upon States to take all necessary measures designed to change social attitudes that lead to such violence;

6. *Encourages* civil society to continue and intensify its efforts, including awareness-raising, education and information campaigns, to eradicate dowry-related violence;

IX
Acid attacks

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the instances of acid attacks against women and girls;

2. *Expresses concern* that victims often do not report attacks owing to fear of reprisals, while noting with satisfaction that, increasingly, victims report attacks to the police and that authorities prosecute the perpetrators;

3. *Welcomes* the measures taken by States to combat acid attacks, including legal measures, counselling, providing shelters for the victims, and awareness-raising campaigns;

4. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To take all necessary measures, including legal measures and prevention campaigns, to eliminate acid attacks and to bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes;

(b) To take the necessary legislative measures to restrict, control and monitor the sale of acid;

(c) To support the activities undertaken by civil society to assist victims of acid attacks, including their recovery and social and economic rehabilitation in society;

5. *Invites* relevant United Nations organizations, where appropriate, to assist in the provision of adequate medical facilities for the treatment of acid-burn victims;

X
Rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere

1. *Notes* that the sexual abuse of women and girls, particularly rape, both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Also notes* that sexual harassment in the workplace can seriously impair equality of women in employment and reaffirms in this regard the obligation of States to take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment;

3. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To take measures to prevent and punish cases of sexual abuse of women, particularly rape;

(b) To take all necessary steps to prohibit all sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct affecting the dignity, equality and non-discrimination of women at work in educational institutions or elsewhere;

(c) To take measures to eliminate incidents of sexual harassment of girls in educational and other institutions;

(d) To promote, develop and implement policies combating sexual harassment that include, inter alia, appropriate punishment and disciplinary rules, complaints procedures and mechanisms adapted to sexual harassment that maintain confidentiality and training and communication;

(e) To promote awareness of, information on, and prevention of sexual harassment;

4. *Invites* all employers and those responsible for educational institutions to take all necessary measures to prevent all forms of sexual harassment in the workplace;

XI
Commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation including trafficking

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 57/176 of 18 December 2002 on the trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Also reaffirms* that violence against women, including violence resulting from commercial sexual exploitation, is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated;

3. *Recognizes* that a number of particularly vulnerable groups, including girl children, are at greater risk of sexual exploitation and that girl children are disproportionately represented among the sexually exploited;

4. *Also recognizes* that it is critical to combat the causes of trafficking, such as poverty, gender inequality, the disempowerment of women and girls, and sexual and other forms of exploitation;

5. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To consider signing and ratifying relevant United Nations legal instruments, especially the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[16] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[17] and the Optional Protocol[18] to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[19] on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(b) To criminalize trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, in all its forms, and to condemn and penalize all those found guilty of trafficking, including intermediaries, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized for being trafficked, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

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[16] Resolution 55/25, annex I.
[17] Ibid., annex II.
[18] See resolution 54/263.
[19] resolution 44/25, annex.

(c) To devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls through comprehensive anti-trafficking policies, programmes and other measures;

(d) To take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour;

(e) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution of women;

(f) To allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, inter alia, through job training, legal assistance and health care, and by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations in providing for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

XII
Crimes committed in the name of passion

1. *Reaffirms* that crimes against women committed in the name of passion constitute a form of violence against women that impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To strengthen awareness and preventive measures for the elimination of crimes committed in the name of passion with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviours that allow such crimes;

(b) To investigate and prosecute crimes against women committed in the name of passion and punish those found guilty of the offences;

XIII
Women and armed conflict

1. *Strongly condemns* violence against women committed in situations of armed conflict, such as murder, rape, including systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, and calls for effective measures in response to these violations of international human rights and humanitarian and criminal law;

2. *Expresses concern* that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, inter alia, as refugees and internally displaced persons, and, increasingly, are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and recognizes the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation;

3. *Recalls* the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[20] which affirms that rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence constitute, in defined circumstances, a crime against humanity and/or a war crime, and reiterates that acts of sexual

[20] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June-17 July 1998; vol. I: Final document* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

violence in situations of armed conflict can constitute serious violations or grave breaches of international humanitarian law;

4. *Also recalls* Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security;

5. *Reaffirms* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution;

6. *Also reaffirms* the need to implement fully international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the recommendation contained in the statement of the President of the Security Council to the press on 8 March 2000 for specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations; [21]

8. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To uphold and reinforce standards set out in international humanitarian law and international human rights instruments to prevent all acts of violence against women in situations of armed and other conflicts;

(b) To investigate all acts of violence against women committed during war, including rape, in particular systematic rape, forced prostitution and other forms of indecent assault and sexual slavery;

(c) To prosecute all those responsible for war crimes against women and provide full redress to women victims;

9. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict:

(a) To take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;

(b) To respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[22] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[23] the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[24] and the 1967 Protocol thereto,[25] the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979[2] and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999,[26] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989[19] and the

[21] Press release OBV/195-SC/7027-WOM/1270.
[22] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[23] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[24] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[25] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[26] Resolution 54/4, annex.

two Optional Protocols thereto of 25 May 2000,[27] and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

XIV

1. *Urges* States:

(a) To consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(b) That are parties to the Convention to include, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and to cross-reference this information, where appropriate, in reports to other human rights treaty bodies;

(c) To cooperate closely with relevant specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as with regional intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, and relevant community and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, in an effort to eliminate violence against women;

(d) To collect, update and improve collection of data on violence against women, inter alia, through gender-disaggregated information systems which should be made public and disseminated widely;

(e) To intensify efforts to raise collective and individual awareness about violence against women, inter alia, through human rights education, to highlight the role of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of violence against women, and to encourage and support initiatives to promote attitudinal and behavioural change on the part of perpetrators of violence against women and their rehabilitation;

(f) To encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for technical and financial assistance to developing countries in their efforts to eliminate violence against women from United Nations funds and programmes, international and regional financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, and civil society, as well as the need for assistance from the international community to non-governmental organizations and community-based groups active in this field;

3. *Encourages* States to contribute or increase their contribution to the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

4. *Invites*:

(a) Relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to exchange information on the subject of the present resolution, and encourages the exchange of such information between non-governmental organizations active in this field and the relevant human rights treaty bodies;

[27] See resolution 54/263.

(b) The relevant human rights treaty bodies to continue to address this issue, where appropriate, and notes in this regard the relevance of general recommendation 19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[28]

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To conduct an in-depth study on all forms and manifestations of violence against women, including those outlined in the different sections of the present resolution and relevant documents, disaggregated by type of violence, and based on existing research undertaken and data collected at national, regional and international levels, in particular in the following fields:

(i) A statistical overview on the various forms of violence against women in order to better evaluate the scale of such violence, while identifying gaps in data collection and formulating proposals for assessing the extent of the problem;

(ii) The causes of violence against women, including its root causes and other contributing factors;

(iii) The medium- and long-term consequences of violence against women;

(iv) The health, social and economic costs of violence against women;

(v) The identification of best-practice examples in areas including legislation, policies, programmes, and effective remedies, and the efficiency of such mechanisms to the end of combating and eliminating violence against women;

(b) To cooperate closely with all relevant United Nations bodies, as well as with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, when preparing the study;

(c) To make the study available to all Member and observer States of the United Nations and, on the basis of this study, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session including action-oriented recommendations for consideration by States, encompassing, inter alia, effective remedies and prevention and rehabilitation measures;

(d) To submit a progress report on the study to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its sixtieth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

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[28] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), see chap. I.